

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing a non-cash transaction at a point-of-sale, the method comprising:

receiving a request to process the transaction in a first currency;

determining whether the first currency constitutes a locally processed currency;

if the first currency constitutes a locally processed currency, processing the transaction through a local processor; and

if the first currency does not constitute a locally processed currency, processing the transaction through a multi-currency processor in communication with one or more authorization modules from which authorizations are received for transacting in one or more currencies other than locally processed currencies.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request comprises receiving a request from a customer.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request comprises receiving a request from a merchant.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the first currency constitutes a locally processed currency comprises comparing the first currency to one or more stored currencies which may be locally processed.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising, if the first currency is not a locally processed currency, retrieving stored exchange-rate information and determining a value of the transaction in a locally processed currency.

6. The method of claim 5, comprising displaying the transaction value in the locally processed currency in a point-of-sale device.

7. A system for processing non-cash transactions in multiple currencies, the system comprising:

a point-of-sale device for receiving a request for processing a transaction in a first currency;

5 means coupled to the point-of-sale device for determining whether the first currency constitutes a locally processed currency;

a local processor for processing transactions in locally processed currency; and

a multi-currency processor gateway for processing transactions in non-locally processed currencies, the gateway comprising a database storing currency exchange-rate and means for communicating with one or more authorizers to obtain authorization to process the transaction in the first currency.

8. A method for facilitating a non-cash transaction in a first currency at a point-of-sale, the first currency comprising a currency other than a local currency, the method comprising:

a merchant selecting a second currency in which to receive payment;

directing a voucher for a value of the transaction in the first currency to a voucher receiving module;

receiving at a multi-currency processor system from the voucher receiving module the voucher for the value in the first currency;

receiving at the multi-currency processor system a voucher authorization for the value in the first currency; and

sending payment for the merchant in a value in the second currency.

9. The method of claim 8, where the second currency and the local currency are the same currency.

10. The method of claim 8, where the value in the first currency has a current exchange-rate relationship with the value in the second currency.

11. The method of claim 8, where the first currency is chosen by a cardholder associated  
5 with the non-cash transaction.